

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

FOR PARENTS: COVID-19 TESTING FOR STUDENTS – 19 UPDATE – 8/24/21

For Franklin County updates straight to your phone: text FranklinCV19 to 888777.

For Gulf County updates straight to your phone text GULFCOVID to 888777.

With COVID-19 take home tests available, it is absolutely fine if parents/caregivers want to get one for their child attending school. However, we ask that you follow up with their medical provider or the health department for an additional test. Some pharmacies also provide testing by appointment, which is also acceptable.

Why?

In order for students who are not symptomatic to return to school, they need a negative test from a medical appointment (provider, health department, pharmacy). We have no way of knowing who took the test at home and are unable to document it in our surveillance system. We share an updated list everyday with the schools so they know which students are clear to return. They can also stay at home and choose the non-testing route for quarantine. Details of both options are provided in the letter sent home to parents.

For all symptomatic students who test positive: Following up with an additional test through a medical appointment helps us document and confirm that your child has had COVID-19. And in the event your child is part of an outbreak investigation in the future, you have documentation to show they have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days and would be excluded from a future quarantine.

The health of all students continues to be a priority. To better support parents, we have prioritized a special testing schedule just for kiddos. Attached is an example letter being sent to parents from Franklin or Gulf schools.

Thank you for your patience. We are all going to get through this.

-The Florida Department of Health – Franklin/Gulf

Florida Department of Health in Gulf County

2475 Garrison Avenue • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456
PHONE: 850-227-1276 • FAX 850-227-7587

Florida Department of Health in Franklin County

139-12th Street • Apalachicola, Florida 32320
PHONE: 850-653-2111 • FAX 850-653-1727

FloridaHealth.gov



Accredited Health Department
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DATE _____

Dear Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s):

The Florida Department of Health in Franklin/Gulf County has been informed of a case of COVID-19 at your child's school. Your child has been identified as a close contact to this case. The last date your child had close contact with the case was _____ (last date of exposure). As of today, your child is on Day _____ of the quarantine period. The quarantine period is through _____ (date quarantine is completed).

Your child may return to school if it has been two weeks since they received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine or if your child has had COVID-19 in the past 90 days from the recent exposure. Continue to monitor your child's health through the 10-day quarantine period. If your child develops any COVID-19 symptoms, seek testing and medical evaluation.

We recommend a modified quarantine with testing for children that have not received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine or it has been less than 2 weeks since your child's second dose. We advise keeping your child home to watch for symptoms. On Day 5 of quarantine, have your child tested. Your child may return to school on Day 5 or after with a negative test result and they are well. If you choose not to test your child and they are well, your child may return to school on Day 8. If your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19, seek testing and medical evaluation.

If your **child has any of the following conditions** that may cause serious illness from COVID-19, **please call your doctor for any additional guidance:**

- Cancer
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Moderate to Severe Asthma
- Diabetes
- Heart conditions
- Obesity BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²
- Pregnant or recently delivered
- Smoking, current or former
- Down syndrome
- Solid organ transplant recipient or any sort of bone marrow or stem cell transplant
- Severe primary immunodeficiencies / Asplenia
- Persons living with HIV
- Treatment with immunosuppressive medications such as cancer chemotherapy, any immune treatment blockers such as TNF blockers, high-dose corticosteroid therapy (e.g. >40 mg daily); treatment with biological agents such as drugs used to treat autoimmune disease and some cancer therapies
- Cystic fibrosis with or with lung or another solid organ transplant
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Liver Disease

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